



Michigan Senate

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The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Governor of Michigan
111 S. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Governor Granholm:

As we discussed in our meeting last week, I am sending to your desk the six remaining budget bills for your signature. The transmittal of these bills provides you the opportunity to close the door on the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 budget so that work can begin on the next fiscal year budget, which will be even more challenging than what we just faced.

The final 2009-2010 budget represents a true bipartisan and bicameral effort that was achieved after months of tough negotiations. The choices made were difficult and painful, but the budget was balanced without any new taxes or tax increases. While we have deep philosophical differences on how best to move Michigan forward, it is my expectation that you will sign these bills into law.

You have stated to me, and to the public, that you are not going to veto entire budgets but that you reserve the right to line item veto portions of those budgets. While you do have that authority, please remember that any line item veto you exercise will result in the total elimination of those programs. Do not veto portions of these budgets with the expectation that money will be reappropriated at a later date to fund the vetoed programs. There is not sufficient support in the Senate Republican caucus for tax increases and for you to think otherwise is a mistake.

I respectfully request that you keep your word and sign the remaining budget bills. The tax payers of Michigan deserve to have a balanced budget with no new taxes.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Bishop
Senate Majority Leader